



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

**Release Date:** August 4, 2004  
**Release Number:** 9ZN2-03

**Contact:** Rick Jenkins  
**Phone:** (916) 735-1500

## ***SBA Expands Disaster Area Due to Alaska Wildfires***

**Sacramento, CA** – Hector V. Barreto, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) today announced that small businesses in the **Matanuska-Susitna and Kenai Peninsula Boroughs**, the **Municipality of Anchorage**, and the **Chugach and Iditarod Regional Educational Attendance Areas (REAAs)** are now also eligible to apply for low-interest loans due to the adverse financial impact of the Alaska wildfires. Barreto's action amending the disaster declaration for the wildfires that began on June 7 to include these municipalities responds to Governor Frank H. Murkowski's request.

These municipalities are in addition to the **Alaska Gateway, Copper River, Delta/Greely, Yukon Flats, Yukon-Koyukuk REAAs**, and the **Fairbanks North Star and Denali Boroughs** that were previously declared a disaster by Barreto. "The availability of SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) in these communities will help relieve the adverse financial impact suffered by small businesses that were affected throughout a much greater area," Barreto said.

Alfred E. Judd, SBA Disaster Area Director, announced that SBA will open a Disaster Office in **Wasilla on Tuesday, August 17 at 9:00 am** at the **Mat-Su Small Business Development Center, located in the Key Bank Building, 201 N. Lucille St., Suite 2A**. The center will be open through **Thursday, August 19. The office will be open 9 am to 1 pm**. "An SBA loan officer will be available to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process, and help each small business owner complete their application," Judd said.

SBA previously announced service in **Fairbanks** at the **Department of Community and Economic Development, 211 Cushman Street**, (across from the Post Office Mall). The office will be open **Tuesday, August 3 through Friday, August 6 from 9 am to 1 pm**; and in **Tok** at the **Alaska Public Land Information Center, 1314 Alaska Highway** (the Alaska State Trooper Building). The office will be open **Tuesday, August 10 through Friday, August 13 from 9 am to 1 pm**.

Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only, and not on any actual property damage. They are also restricted to businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse economic effects of the disaster. The interest rate is **2.75%**, the maximum loan amount is \$1.5 million, and the length of the loan cannot exceed 30 years.

Business owners unable to visit the center may obtain information and loan applications by writing SBA at P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841, or by calling (800) 488-5323. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 735-1683. The filing deadline is **April 22, 2005**.

*For more information visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster).*

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SBA Disaster Assistance Office - Area 4 — P.O. Box 419004 — Sacramento, CA 95841